Rio Conference

3139. SHRI JAG MOHAN : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the schemes for improving the environment conditions in India launched by the Government with the help of United Nations' sponsored and funded agencies in view of the Rio Conference 1992;

(b) the impact thereof;

(c) whether the promises and declarations made at the aforesaid Conference have been fulfiled;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof; and

(e) the measures being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPTAIN JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) No scheme based on the decision arrived at in the Rio Conference has been lunched by the Government with the help of the United Nations' sponsored and funded agencies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e). The consensus arrived at the Rio Conference 1992 was focussed on sustainable development, principles of sustainable management of forests and Agenda 21 which contained blue prints for action towards sustainable development in the future. It was agred that the ways and means of providing new and additional financial resources particularly in developing countries for environmentally sound programmes would emanate from the Global Environment Facility to be managed jointly by the World Bank, UNEP and UNDP. Since the Rio Summit, India has been pursuing the issue of transfer of financial resources at various international fora. The commitments of developed countries at the Rio Conference regarding new and additional resources being made available to the developing countries have only been partially fulfilled.

During the Conference, India also signed the Framework Convention on climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity which were later on ratified. India has also signed the International Convention to Combat Desertification. We are also an active member of the Commission on sustainable Development, set up to monitor the national, international and global implementation of the Agenda 21.

At national level, the agenda 21 and the Rio Declaration have been discussed with the sectorial ministries and the Planning Commission. Progress made so far in the implementation of the Agenda 21 has been uneven. The thrust is now to internalise the concept of Sustainable development into the planning process of each sectoral Ministry and to facilitate increased allocation of resources on this basis. An Environment Action Programme (EAP) has also been formulated and the priority areas identified in the Programme are: Sustainable Urban management, Promotion of Clean Technologies of production, Development of Institutional Structures, Promotion of the use of Renewable Sources of Energy, Institutional Structures and Environmental Management, water Quality management, Environmental Impact Assessment, Foresty and Environmental Education. Action in these priority areas has been initiated with the assistance from international organisations.

[Translation]

Stoppage at Rafi Ganj Railway Station

3140. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Poorva Express, Nilanchal Express and Bombay Mail trains have no stoppage at Rafi Ganj railways station of the Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the time by which the stoppage is proposed to be given to these trains at this important railway station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No such proposal at present.

[English]

Tiger conservation strategy and Action Plan

3141. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether alarmed by the depleting tiger population in the country, the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) has prepared a 'Tiger Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, July 1996' to protect the great cats from extinction;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof; and

(c) the role envisaged by the WWF and his Ministry so far as the conservation of Project Tiger is concerned, specially in Sunderbans area in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The WWF has prepared a document titled "Tiger conservation Strategy and Action Plan" having the following broad features :

GOAL: The overall goal of WWF-India's Tiger Conservation Strategy is to strengthen the ongoing efforts for the protection of the tiger, essentially through new and innovative initiatives aimed at improving the status of the species in the long term.